

EL GATO VOLADOR: OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

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I don't know what inspired El Chombo to write his 1998 song titled *El Gato Volador* about a "flying cat" or exactly what he knows about the mysterious creature. What I do know is that I received a call on the paranormal hotline on August 5, 2021, at 2 p.m. about a flying cat. The call came in from a Marine who only wanted to use his last name — Bakker.

Bakker proceeded to tell me his story. He and two other Marines were hiking at Joshua Tree National Park in California. They were enjoying the day and taking pictures. When they finally arrived at their destination point, they decided to turn back and head home.

An Encounter With a Flying Cat

As they walked back on the trail, heading to their vehicle, they heard what sounded like a mountain lion. But when they looked toward the sound, they did not see a mountain lion. Instead, on top of a rock, they spotted a large cat.

Bakker said the cat stared at him and his friends for a couple of seconds and then leaped into the air. What happened next shocked the group. The cat flew off into the horizon using large wings on its back. Everything happened so quickly, according to Bakker, that he did not manage to get a picture of the winged cat.

Bakker's friend, who is of Mexican descent, called the creature "*El Gato Volador*," which means in English "flying cat." Bakker does plan to go back to the trail to look for the flying cat.



**Reports of *El Gato Volador* are rare, but one eyewitness reported seeing the creature in a California National Park.
(Illustrated by William Carlisle)**

High Strangeness at Joshua Tree

Joshua Tree National Park is a very strange place. Hikers and rock climbers have turned up missing. Dead bodies are found throughout the park. UFOs have been seen in the skies over the Park.

American singer, songwriter Gram Parsons, who was a member of The Byrds and The Flying Burrito Brothers, claimed he spotted many UFOs at Joshua Tree National Park. After his death from an overdose at the age of 26, Parsons was cremated by two friends at the park — per his wishes.

Joshua Tree National Park is definitely a place for high strangeness. ♦